

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the previous allowance of claims 2, 5-8 and 13-15. Applicants are treating claim 16 as objected to, rather than withdrawn from consideration for the purposes of this response.

The Amendments To The Claims

Claims 11-12 have been canceled by this amendment. Claims 2-7, 9 and 13-16 have been amended by replacing "A" with "The." The term "an" was added to claim 2. Claims 3 and 4 were amended by addition of the phrase "the group", by replacing the term "derivative" with "salt" and by replacing "(XVIII)" with "(XIX)." The term "(XVIII)" was replaced with "(XIX)" in the proviso to correct a typographical error since the proviso is directed to the tricyclooctane compound of formula (XIX) and not the bicyclo compound of formula (XVIII). Claim 5 was amended by deleting the phrase "selected from" and by addition of the phrase "or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof." Claims 6 and 7 were amended by addition of the phrase "or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof." Claim 8 was amended by replacing the term "derivative" with "salt." Claim 9 was amended by addition of the phrase "any one of." Support for these amendments is in the specification as originally filed, including the original claims. Applicants reserve the right, without waiver or prejudice, to pursue the canceled or deleted subject matter in divisional or continuation applications.

Claim Objections:

Claims 9 and 16 were objected to as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim must refer to other claims in the alternative only. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9, as amended, only refers to other claims in the alternative. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider claims 9 and 16, as amended, and withdraw the objection to those claims.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph Rejection of Claims 3 and 4

Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as their invention. The Examiner alleges that the term "derivative" as recited in those claims renders those claims indefinite. Claims 3-4, as amended, now recite the term "salt" in place of the term "derivative." The term salt is fully supported in the specification as filed and applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art readily understands the definition of the term "salt" in view of the specification. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider claims 3-4, as amended, and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejection of those claims.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed all points and concerns raised by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request an early and favorable action in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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